

Amendment to the Claims

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of the Claims:

1. **(Currently Amended)** Method of reinforcing against seismic or paraseismic stresses in a metal tank holding a static fluid, said metal tank including a closed base surface capable of lying on the ground, said metal tank including an external surface with a height[[,]] and an axis extending in the direction of the height, said metal tank surrounded over at least part of its height with carbon fibre fabric bonded to the external surface of the metal tank and in which the carbon fibre fabric is placed in bands extending substantially around the entire circumference of the metal tank, predominantly in a direction substantially perpendicular to the axis of the metal tank, said fabric including carbon fibres, said carbon fibre fabric bonded to the external surface of the metal tank in such a way that the carbon fibres lie predominantly along a direction substantially perpendicular to the axis of the metal tank.

2. **(Withdrawn)** Method according to Claim 1, in which the carbon fibre fabric is bonded to the external surface of the metal container in such a way that the carbon fibres lie predominantly along a direction substantially perpendicular to an axis of the metal container.

3. **(Previously Presented)** Method according to Claim 1, in which the metal tank is at least partly filled and in which the metal tank is surrounded with a carbon fibre fabric without the metal tank being emptied.

4. **(Previously Presented)** Method according to Claim 1, in which the carbon fibre fabric is bonded to the external surface of the metal tank so as to bypass projecting regions on the said part of the external surface of the metal tank.

5. **(Previously Presented)** Method according to Claim 1, in which the carbon fibre fabric is bonded to the external surface of the metal tank in several superposed layers.

6. **(Previously Presented)** Method according to Claim 5, in which the number of superposed layers of the carbon fibre fabric varies with the height along the metal tank.

7. **(Previously Presented)** Method according to Claim 5, in which the carbon fibre fabric is placed in bands and in which the superposed layers are offset with another by half the width of a band.

8. **(Currently Amended)** A metal tank for holding a static fluid, said metal tank comprising a closed with a base capable of lying on the ground, an axis extending a height from the closed base and an external surface, said metal tank reinforced against seismic or paraseismic stresses, surrounded over at least part of its height with carbon fibre fabric bonded to the external surface of the metal tank, the carbon fibre fabric being placed in bands extending substantially around the entire circumference of the metal tank, predominantly in a direction substantially perpendicular to the axis of the metal tank, said fabric including carbon fibers, said carbon fibre fabric is bonded to the external surface of the metal tank in such a way that the carbon fibres lie predominantly along a direction substantially perpendicular to an axis of the metal tank.

9. **(Withdrawn)** Metal container according to Claim 8, in which the carbon fibre fabric is bonded to the external surface of the metal container in such a way that the carbon fibres lie predominantly along a direction substantially perpendicular to an axis of the metal container.

10. **(Previously Presented)** Metal tank according to Claim 8, at least partly filled, the metal tank being surrounded with a carbon fibre fabric without being emptied.

11. **(Previously Presented)** Metal tank according to Claim 8, in which the carbon fibre fabric is bonded to the external surface of the metal tank so as to bypass projecting regions on the said part of the external surface of the metal tank.

12. **(Previously Presented)** Metal tank according to Claim 8, in which the carbon fibre fabric is bonded to the external surface of the metal tank in several superposed layers.

13. **(Previously Presented)** Metal tank according to Claim 12, in which the number of superposed layers of the carbon fibre fabric varies with the height along the metal tank.

14. **(Previously Presented)** Metal tank according to Claim 12, in which the carbon fibre fabric is placed in bands and in which the superposed layers are offset with respect to one another by half the width of a band.

15. **(Currently Amended)** A method of reinforcing a generally cylindrical metal tank, having an axis extending for a height upwardly from a closed base capable of lying on the ground and an external surface, against seismic or paraseismic stresses, comprising the steps of: passively surrounding at least part of its axial height with carbon fibre fabric over the external surface of the metal tank by carbon fibre fabric bands extending substantially around the entire external surface circumference of the metal tank, predominantly in a direction substantially perpendicular to the axis of the metal tank and bonding the fabric to the outside metal surface with an adhesive, said carbon fibre fabric comprising carbon fibres predominantly along a direction substantially perpendicular to the axis of the metal tank.

16. **(Withdrawn)** The method according to Claim 15 in which the carbon fibre fabric comprises carbon fibres predominantly along a direction substantially perpendicular to the axis of the metal container.

17. **(Currently Amended)** A metal tank reinforced against seismic or paraseismic

stresses, comprising a generally cylindrical metal tank with a closed base capable of lying on the ground, an external surface with a height from the base and a longitudinal axis, said metal tank surrounded at least over part of its height with carbon fibre fabric passively bonded by adhesive to the external surface of the metal tank, said carbon fibre fabric being placed in bands extending substantially around the entire circumference of the metal tank external surface, predominantly in a direction substantially perpendicular to the axis of the metal tank, said carbon fibre fabric comprising carbon fibres that lie predominantly along a direction substantially perpendicular to the axis of the metal tank.

18. **(Withdrawn)** A metal container according to Claim 17 in which the carbon fibre fabric comprises carbon fibres that lie predominantly along a direction substantially perpendicular to the axis of the metal container.